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it is a practical recognition of the fact that California is the ideal climate for making astronomical observations, as has been fully shown by the experience of the past seven years. The addition of this great reflector to the equipment of the LICK Observatory, which already possesses the great 3-foot refractor, makes the instrumental outfit of Mount Hamilton decidedly superior to that of any observatory now existing.

The refractor is eminently suitable for certain kinds of work. There are other kinds in which the reflector possesses distinct advantages. As the LICK Observatory will soon have a great telescope of each kind established in a most favorable situation, it will be admirably fitted in the future for every kind of astronomical work. It may be mentioned that the original plan of the LICK Observatory contemplated the installation of a great reflector as well as a great refractor. It was found by the LICK Trustees that the funds left by Mr. LICK were not adequate to provide both these instruments, and the plan for making the reflector was reluctantly abandoned. The splendid gift of Mr. CROSSLEY comes to complete the equipment of the Observatory in the most satisfactory manner. The cost of dismounting the reflector and dome in England, of transporting them to California (only the more important parts of the framework of the dome will be required here), and of erecting the complete apparatus at Mount Hamilton must be raised by subscription in America before Mr. CROSSLEY'S generous offer can be definitely accepted.*
—San Jose *Mercury*, April 5, 1895.

SEPARATION OF HELIUM FROM A TERRESTRIAL SUBSTANCE.

LONDON, March 31.—The detection of the gas *argon* in the atmosphere is being followed by a rapid series of discoveries of great interest. Chemists have long known, theoretically, of the existence of another element, which has been called "*helium*," and which was revealed by the spectroscope in the Sun's rays. It was not known to exist in this planet.

Professor RAMSAY, a few days ago, in order to ascertain whether there was something in the world with which argon would keep company, was examining the extremely rare earth found in Norway, known as *cleveite.* When this mineral was treated with weak sulphuric acid, it gave off a gas which has hitherto been regarded as nitrogen. The professor found by close examination that it was not nitrogen, but *argon;* and, moreover, there was associated with it another gas, which he found to be — to use his words — "a gas which has not yet been separated." He submitted it to Professor CROOKES, and the result is to show that the gas thus found is *helium.*

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*Subscriptions to the fund for this purpose may be sent to the Director of the LICK Observatory, Mount Hamilton, California, U. S. A. They will be gratefully received and suitably acknowledged.

M. BERTHELOT, continuing his experiments in Paris, found in manipulating *argon* he developed at ordinary pressure a magnificent fluorescent substance, greenish yellow in color, and characterized by the spectrum as similar to that of the aurora borealis. From this he deduced that the northern lights are caused by a fluorescent matter derived from argon, and engendered through the influence of electrical emanations developed in the atmosphere.

Still another scientific triumph of the week is the liquefaction of hydrogen by Professor OLSZEWSKI, of Cracow. He finds that the lightest of all gases liquefies at 253° below zero. — S. F. *Chronicle,* April 1, 1895.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SPECTROSCOPY.

The *Report* of the British Association for the Advancement of Science for 1894 (page 163) contains a summary of the literature of spectroscopy which, with previous lists, brings the cataloguing up to the beginning of 1894. E. S. H.

DRAWINGS OF *MARS*, 1894.

The cut in this number of the *Publications* gives four diagrams of *Mars*, which show the south polar cap and protuberances from the terminator; and also a drawing of *Lacus Solis* made under very good conditions on October 3, and completed and verified October 11. E. S. H.

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF WALES.

A new society, with the above title, was formed in Cardiff, Wales, in January of 1895. It has already commenced the publication of a *Journal.* The best wishes of their colleagues in America are extended to the new society. E. S. H.